

SUPPORT SB 33

A state's legal climate can be a major inducement or a major deterrent to business investment, growth and job creation. It is one factor among several key ones that businesses consider when making decisions about where to expand existing operations or locate new facilities. Specifically companies are looking for fairness and predictability.

Our legal climate and litigation costs also impact competitiveness--nationally and internationally. North Carolina businesses face growing competition against international competitors that have much lower litigation costs. This is a disadvantage for our businesses in a fiercely competitive global economy.

For North Carolina businesses to invest and create jobs North Carolina's civil justice system must be rational, fair and predictable. Employers must be free to innovate and pursue market opportunities without fear of unreasonable exposure to costly lawsuits, while truly injured parties must have full recourse to appropriate measures of justice.

Senate Bill 33 is an important first step toward an overall objective to make North Carolina's legal system rational, fair and predictable. Medical malpractice reform is one method that will help lower overall health care costs which are a top concern for both small and large businesses.

The reforms in Senate Bill 33 will:

- Reduce the threat of frivolous lawsuits and the pressure on physicians to practice defensive medicine.
- Help recruit and retain physicians to practice in North Carolina thus improving access to health care.
- Help lower overall health care costs which will strengthen our economy and help create jobs.

The following organizations urge you to support Senate Bill 33: